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Title: Need to ensure timely repair, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Indian Railways is the lifeline of the nation and has been widely acclaimed for providing connectivity and integration necessary for a balanced regional development. Measured in Kilometers, Indian Railway lines rank fourth in the world in length. The Indian Railways has been working ceaselessly for the past so many decades and the rail traffic has increased manifold but under-investment and poor maintenance have taken their tool. We have seen recurring derailments across the country and more recently the derailment of 12 bogies of Thiruvanthapuram-Mangalore Express No. 16347 between Aluva and Karukutty stations in Ernakulum District. These derailments appear to have been caused by poor maintenance of railway lines. I urge upon the Railway Minister to take urgent steps to ensure regular inspection of railway lines and timely repair and maintenance so that accidents do not recur for want of maintenance and lives of thousands of innocent passengers are not put at risk.